



La vérification de propriétés de graphes
exprimées en logique du second-ordre monadique.

Verification of monadic second-order graph properties

Bruno Courcelle

Université Bordeaux 1, LaBRI & Institut Universitaire de France

References:

B.C. and J. Engelfriet : *Graph structure and monadic second-order logic*, book to be published by Cambridge University Press, May 2012.

B.C. and I. Durand: *Fly-automata, their properties and applications*, 16th CIAA, 2011, LNCS 6807, pp. 264 – 272.

All are readable on : <http://www.labri.fr/perso/courcell/ActSci.html>

Summary

1. Monadic Second-Order (MSO) logic
2. Graph decompositions, tree-width and clique-width
3. From MSO formulas to automata
4. Practical difficulties and (some) remedies
5. Tree-width and MSO formulas with edge quantifications
6. Open problems and conclusion.

Two ways of considering graphs

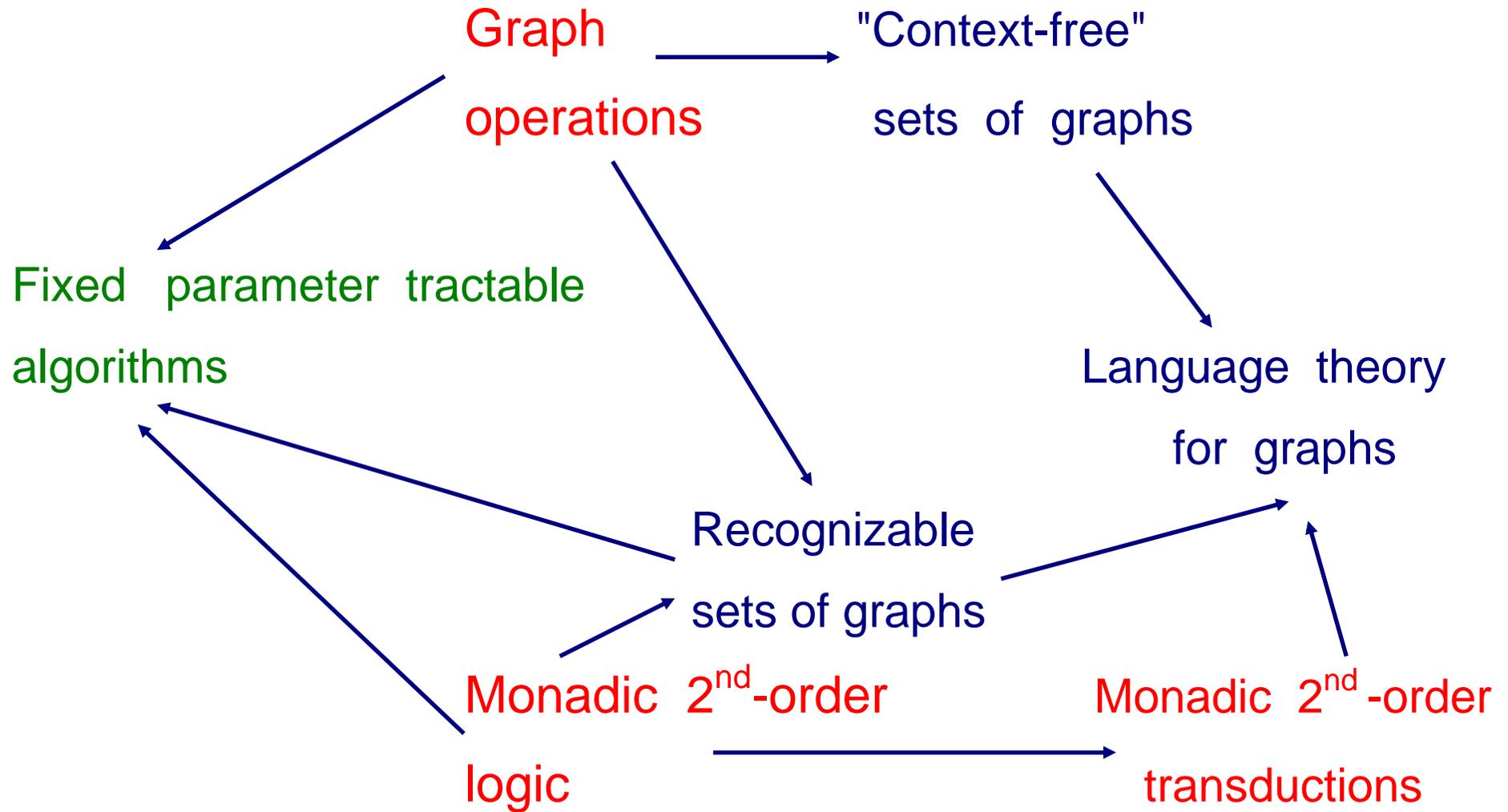
A graph (finite, up to isomorphism) is an *algebraic object*,
an element of an algebra of graphs
(similar to words, elements of monoids)

A graph is a *logical structure* ;
graph properties can be expressed by logical formulas
(FO = first-order, MSO = monadic second-order)

Consequences:

- a) *Language Theory* concepts extend to graphs
- b) *Algorithmic meta-theorems*

An overview chart



1. Monadic Second-Order (MSO) Logic

Graphs as logical structures: G is directed or undirected, and *simple*

$G = (V_G, \text{edg}_G(.,.))$ with $\text{edg}_G(u,v) \Leftrightarrow$ there is an edge $u \rightarrow v$ (or $u - v$).

We cannot write an equality if G is not simple. Graphs with multiple edges will be considered later.

Monadic second-order logic

= First-order logic on *power-set* structures

= First-order logic extended with (quantified) *set variables*

denoting subsets of the domains.

For graphs, set variables denote sets of vertices.

(“An arbitrary set of edges” is here a binary relation over V_G).

MSO (expressible) properties : k-colorability, transitive closure, properties of paths, connectivity, planarity

Examples for $G = (V_G, \text{edg}_G(.,.))$, undirected

Syntax is clear; shorthands are used (example $X \cap Y = \emptyset$).

(1) *G is 3-colorable :*

$$\begin{aligned} \exists X, Y (X \cap Y = \emptyset \wedge \\ \forall u, v \{ \text{edg}(u, v) \Rightarrow \\ [(u \in X \Rightarrow v \notin X) \wedge (u \in Y \Rightarrow v \notin Y) \wedge \\ (u \notin X \cup Y \Rightarrow v \in X \cup Y)] \\ \}) \end{aligned}$$

(2) G is *not* connected :

$$\exists Z (\exists x \in Z \wedge \exists y \notin Z \wedge (\forall u,v (u \in Z \wedge \text{edg}(u,v) \Rightarrow v \in Z)))$$

(3) *Transitive and reflexive closure* : **TC**($R ; x, y$) :

$$\forall X \{ \text{“}X \text{ is } R\text{-closed”} \wedge x \in X \Rightarrow y \in X \}$$

where “ X is R -closed” is defined by :

$$\forall u,v (u \in X \wedge R(u,v) \Rightarrow v \in X)$$

The relation R can be defined by a formula as in (*where Y is free*) :

$$\forall x,y (x \in Y \wedge y \in Y \Rightarrow \mathbf{TC}(\text{“}u \in Y \wedge v \in Y \wedge \text{edg}(u,v)\text{”} ; x, y)$$

expressing **Conn**(Y) i.e. that $G[Y]$ is connected.

(4) *Minors*: G contains a fixed graph H as a minor with $V_H = \{1, \dots, p\}$:
there exist disjoint sets of vertices X_1, \dots, X_p in G
such that each $G[X_i]$ is connected and,
whenever $i - j$ in H , there is an edge between X_i and X_j .

(5) *Planarity* is expressible : no minor K_5 or $K_{3,3}$ (Kuratowski-Wagner).

(6) *Has a cycle* (for G without loops) :

$\exists x, y, z [\text{edg}(x, y) \wedge \text{edg}(y, z) \wedge \text{“there is a path from } x \text{ to } z \text{ avoiding } y\text{”}]$

(7) *Is a tree* : connected without cycles.

Provably non-expressible properties

- G is isomorphic to $K_{p,p}$ for some p (*not fixed*; needs equal cardinalities of two sets, hence quantification over binary relations to find a **bijection**).
- G has a **nontrivial automorphism**, or has all vertices of **same degree**.
- $\text{Card}(X)$ is a multiple of p . (But this is possible if the graph is linearly ordered or if some linear order is definable by an MSO formula).

Definition: Adding these *cardinality set predicates* to MSO logic gives **Counting Monadic Second-Order (CMSO) logic**: all good properties of MSO logic hold for it.

(Adding an *equicardinality* set predicate would spoil everything.)

Exercises

- 1) Write an MSO-formula expressing that a simple *directed* graph is a rooted tree.
- 2) Write an MSO-formula with free variables x,y,z expressing that, in a tree (undirected and unrooted), if one takes x as root, then y is an ancestor of z .
- 3) A nonempty word over alphabet $\{a,b\}$ can be considered as a directed path given with unary relations lab_a and lab_b representing the sets of occurrences of letters a and b . Prove that every regular language over $\{a,b\}$ is MS-definable.
- 4) A complete bipartite graph $K_{n,m}$ has a Hamiltonian cycle iff $n=m$. Construct such a graph “over” any word in $\{a,b\}^+$ having at least one a and at least one b . (It follows that Hamiltonicity is not MS-expressible because the converse of 3) holds).
- 5) Write an MSO-formula expressing *acyclic p -colorability* : every two colors induce a forest.

Two problems for a class C of finite graphs and a logic:

Decidability? : Does a given sentence hold in some (or all) graphs of C ?

Model-checking (decidable) : Its time/space complexity ?

Language, class	<i>Decidability</i>	<i>Model-checking</i>
FO, all graphs	Undecidable	Polynomial-time
CMSO, clique-width $< k$	Decidable	Cubic-time
CMSO, unbdd cwd.	Undecidable	Conjecture : not FPT (*)

(*) A related fact is proved by S. Kreutzer (LICS 2010) for unbounded tree-width and MSO formulas with edge quantifications.

(The exact statement is very technical.)

Model-checking problems

The 3-Coloring problem is **NP-complete** and **MSO-expressible**.

Fixed-Parameter Tractability (FPT) :

Definitions: (1) An algorithm taking time $f(k) \cdot n^c$ for some fixed function f and constant c is **FPT**.

The value k is a **parameter**: degree, diameter, tree-width, clique-width, etc. The “hard part” of the time complexity depends on some function f (arbitrary in the definition; in practice, it must be “limited”) whereas the size of the input is n . So, the “main factor” is polynomial.

(2) An algorithm is in the class **XP** if it takes time $O(n^{g(k)})$.

It takes polynomial time for fixed k , with a degree depending on k .

3-colorability again :

It is NP-complete for (even planar) graphs of degree ≤ 4 (Dailey, 1980)

Hence the *degree* is *not* a good parameter.

Tree-width is good because the time complexity is $O((2^{32.k.k.k} + 3^k) . n)$.

(The term $2^{32.k.k.k}$ is for constructing a tree-decomposition).

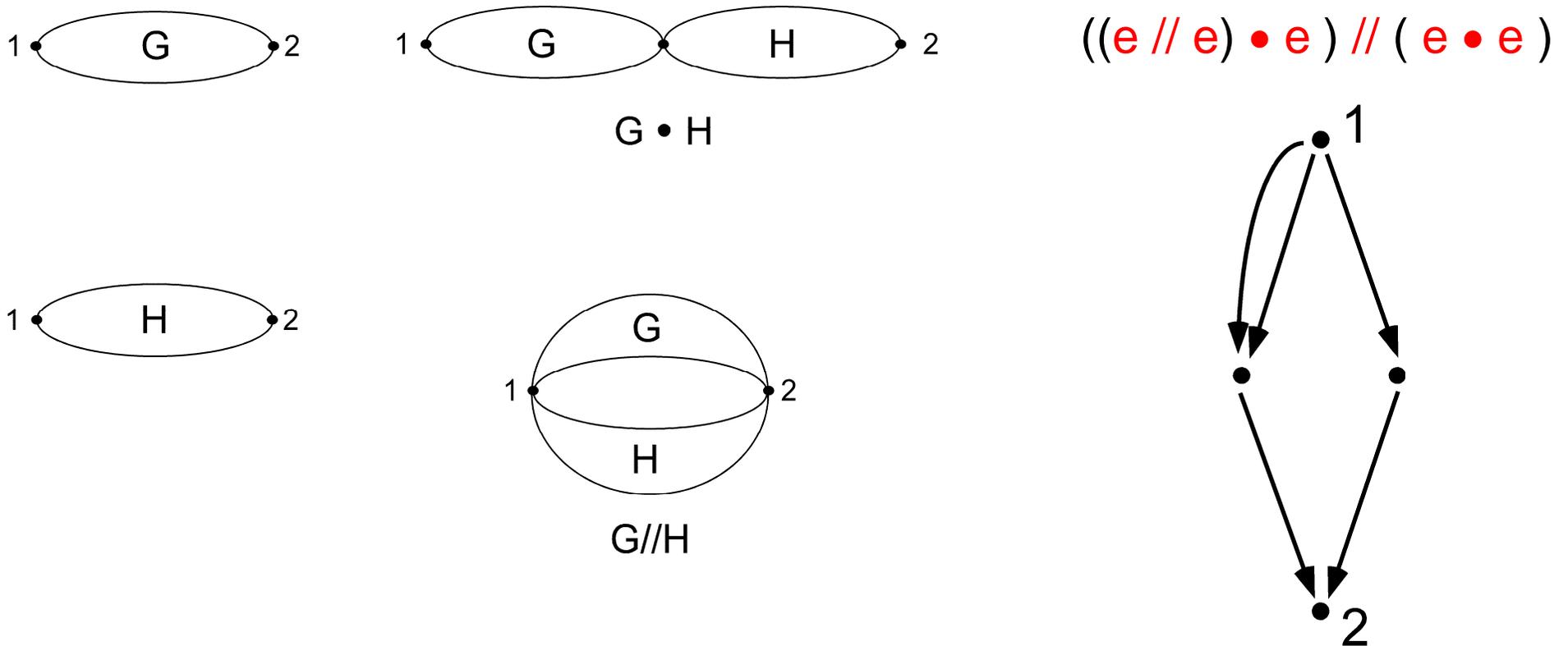
For MSO properties the good parameters are tree-width and clique-width : **both are based on hierarchical decompositions.**

2. Graph decompositions : tree-width and clique-width.

Example 1: Directed series-parallel graphs (tree-width 2 ; trees have tree-width 1)

Graphs with distinguished vertices marked 1 and 2, generated from

$e = 1 \rightarrow 2$ by the operations of *parallel-composition* $//$ and *series-composition* \bullet



The defining equation is $S = S // S \cup S \bullet S \cup \{e\}$

Example 2 : **Cographs** (clique-width 2 ; trees have clique-width ≤ 3)

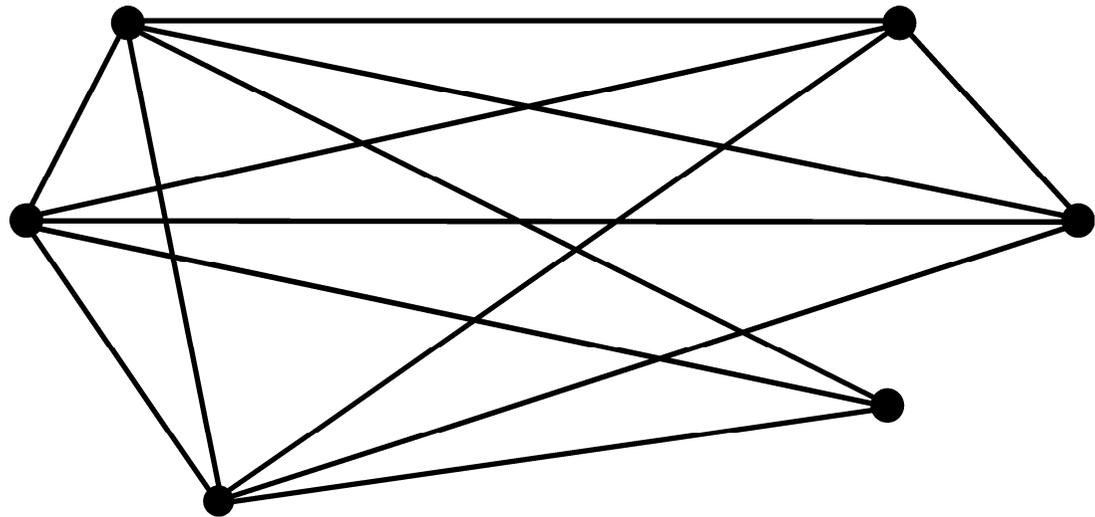
Undirected graphs generated by \oplus , *disjoint union* and \otimes , *complete join* from **a**, a vertex without edges (up to isomorphism); \otimes is defined by :

$G \otimes H = G \oplus H$ with “all possible” undirected edges between G and H ,

Cographs are recursively defined by : $C = C \oplus C \cup C \otimes C \cup \{a\}$

Example :

$(a \otimes a \otimes a) \otimes ((a \otimes a) \oplus a)$



Definition : *Clique-width*

More powerful than *tree-width*; the construction of automata is easier.

Graphs are *simple*, directed or not.

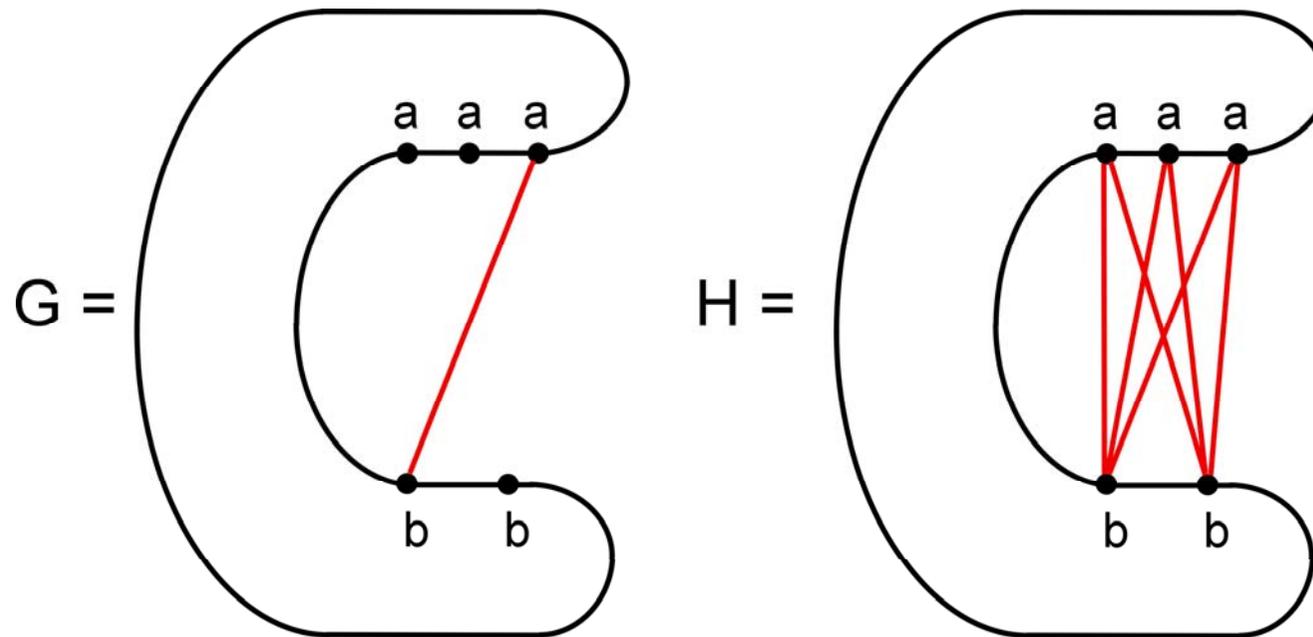
We use labels: *a, b, c, ..., d*. Each vertex has one and only one label ; *several* vertices may have the same label. We call *x* labelled by *a* an *a-port*

One binary operation : disjoint union : \oplus

Remark : If *G* and *H* are not disjoint, we replace *H* by an isomorphic disjoint copy to define $G \oplus H$. Hence $G \oplus H$ is well-defined *up to isomorphism*. No such problem in a “decomposition approach”.

Unary operations: Edge-addition denoted by $Add_{a,b}$

Addition of undirected edges: $Add_{a,b}(G)$ is G augmented with edges between every a -port and every b -port.



$H = Add_{a,b}(G)$; only 5 edges added

The number of added edges depends on the argument graph.

Addition of directed edges: $\overrightarrow{Add}_{a,b}(G)$ is G augmented with edges *from* every a -port to every b -port.

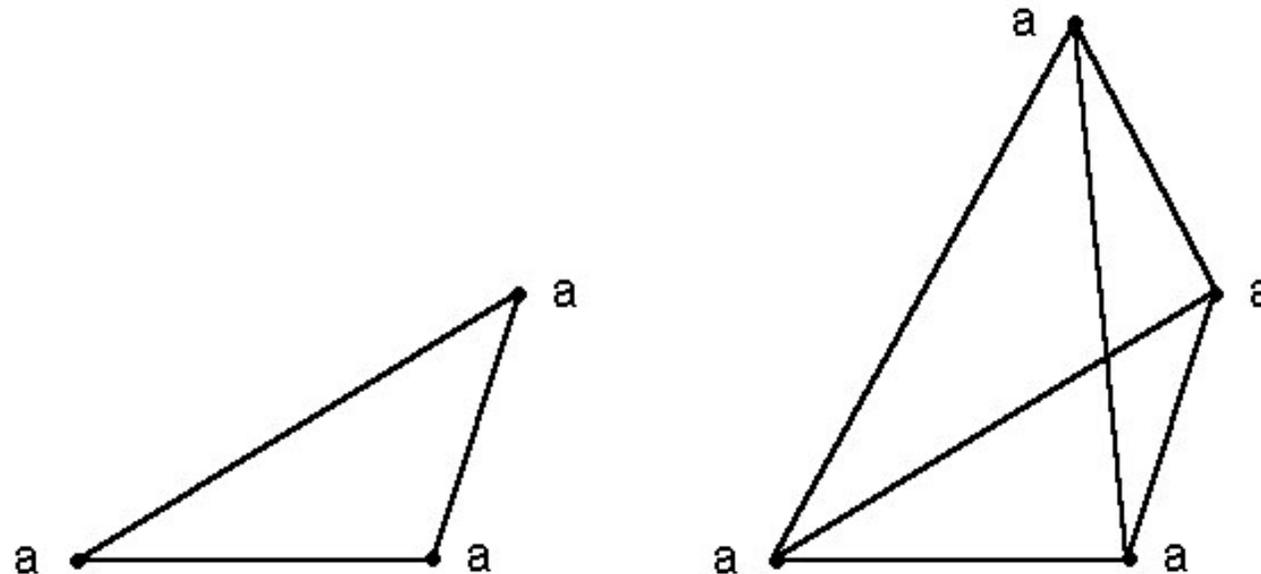
Vertex relabellings :

$Relab_{a \rightarrow b}(G) = G$ with every vertex labelled by a relabelled into b

Basic graphs : those with a single vertex.

Definition: A graph G has *clique-width* $\leq k \iff$ it can be constructed from basic graphs with the operations \oplus , $Add_{a,b}$ (or $\overrightarrow{Add}_{a,b}$) and $Relab_{a \rightarrow b}$ by using $\leq k$ labels. Its clique-width $cwd(G)$ is the smallest such k

Example : Cliques have clique-width 2 (and *unbounded tree-width*)



K_n is defined by t_n where $t_{n+1} = \text{Relabb} \rightarrow a(\text{Adda,b}(t_n \oplus \mathbf{b}))$

Cliques are defined by the equation :

$$K = \text{Relabb} \rightarrow a(\text{Adda,b}(K \oplus \mathbf{b})) \cup \mathbf{a}$$

Examples of bounded clique-width:

An undirected graph is a cograph \Leftrightarrow it has clique-width at most 2.

Distance hereditary graphs have clique-width at most 3.

Examples of unbounded clique-width:

Planar graphs (even of degree 3),

Interval graphs.

Fact: Unlike tree-width, clique-width is sensible to edge directions :

Cliques have clique-width 2 but *tournaments* have *unbounded clique-width*.

Exercises

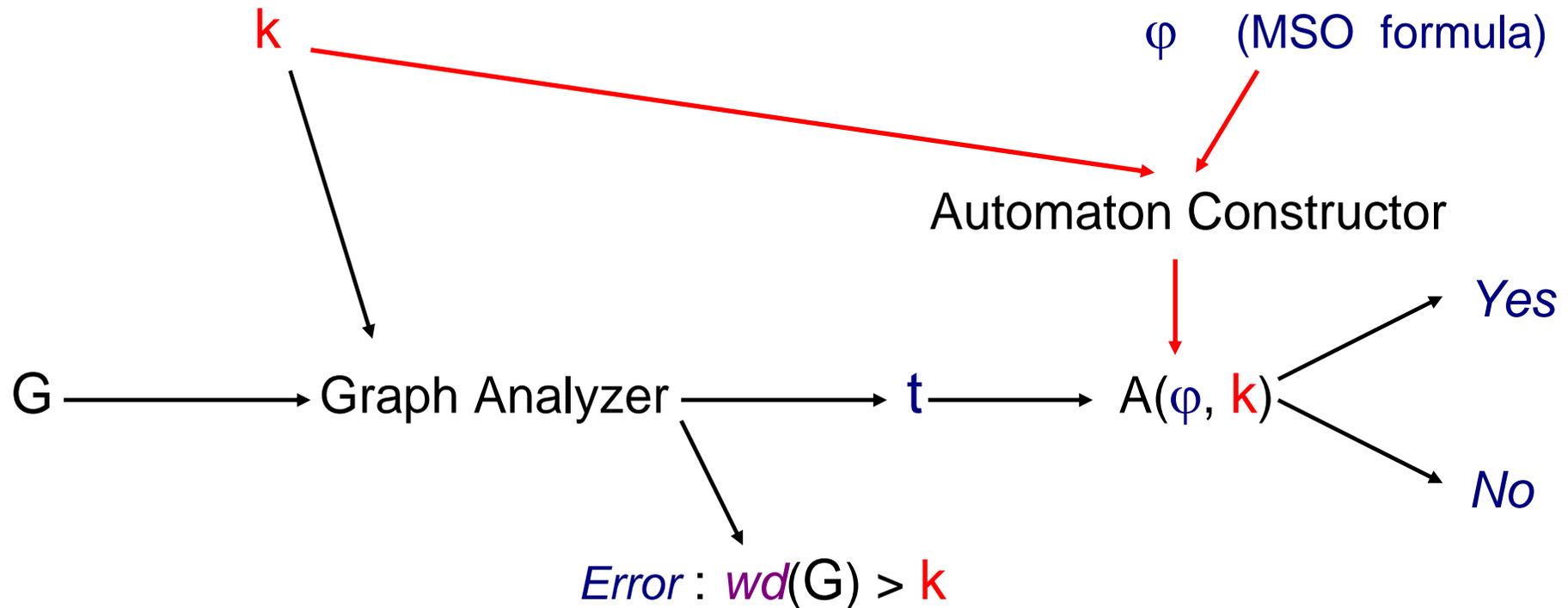
1) Write optimal terms that define grids.

($\text{cwd}(G_{n \times n}) = n+1$; $m+1 \leq \text{cwd}(G_{n \times m}) \leq m+2$ if $n > m$, by Golombic & Rotics).

2) Give an upper bound to the clique-width of a graph whose biconnected components have clique-width at most k .

3) Give an upper bound to the clique-width of a series-parallel graph.

3. From MSO formulas to automata



Steps \longrightarrow are done “once for all”, independently of G

$A(\varphi, k)$: finite automaton on terms t

wd = tree-width or clique-width or equivalent,

Tree-decompositions also have algebraic expressions.

Construction of $A(\varphi, k)$ for “clique-width” terms

k = the number of vertex labels = the bound on clique-width

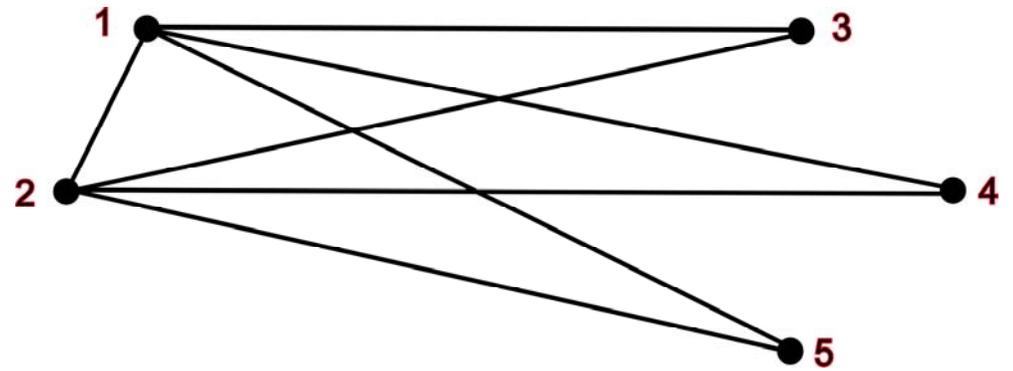
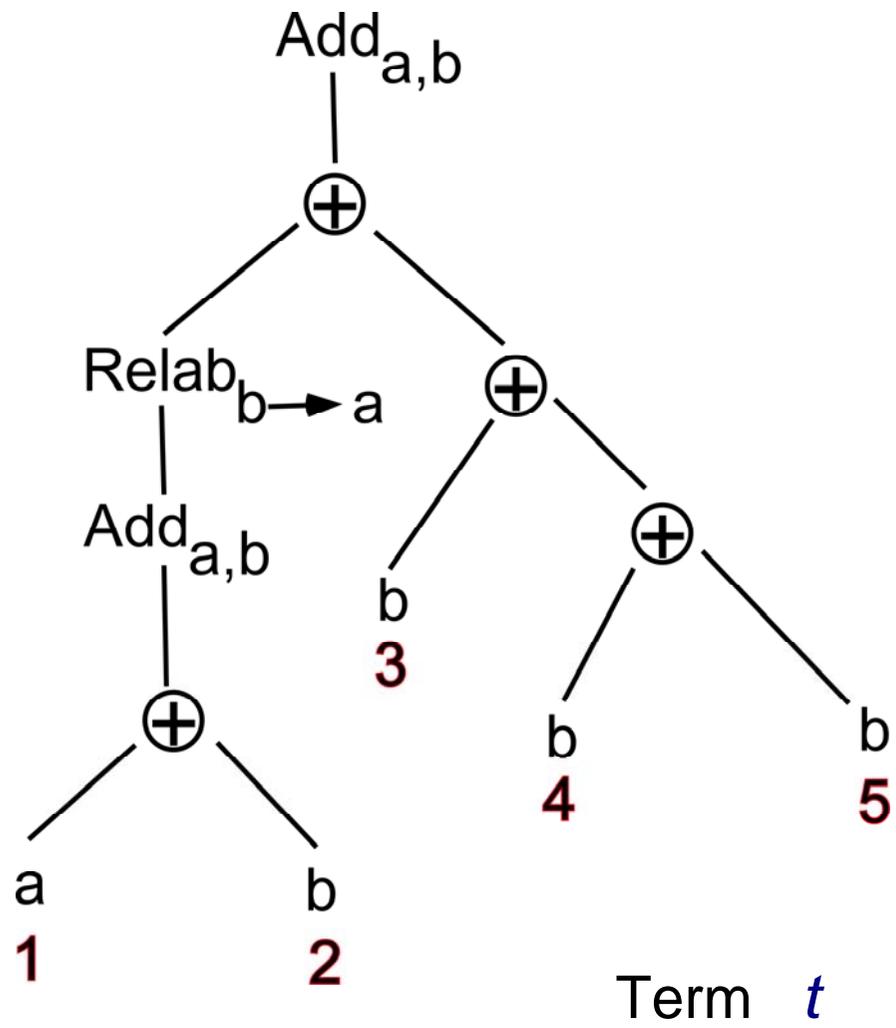
F = the corresponding set of operations and constants :

a , \emptyset , \oplus , $Add_{a,b}$, $\overrightarrow{Add}_{a,b}$, $Relab\ a \longrightarrow b$

$G(t)$ = the graph defined by a term t in $\mathbf{T}(F)$.

Its vertices are (in bijection with) the occurrences of the *constants* (the nullary symbols) in t that are not \emptyset

Example



Terms are equipped with **Booleans** that encode assignments of vertex sets V_1, \dots, V_n to the free set variables X_1, \dots, X_n of MSO formulas (*formulas are written without first-order variables*):

1) we replace in F each constant **a** by the constants

(a, (w₁, ..., w_n)) where $w_i \in \{0, 1\}$: we get $F^{(n)}$

(only constants are modified);

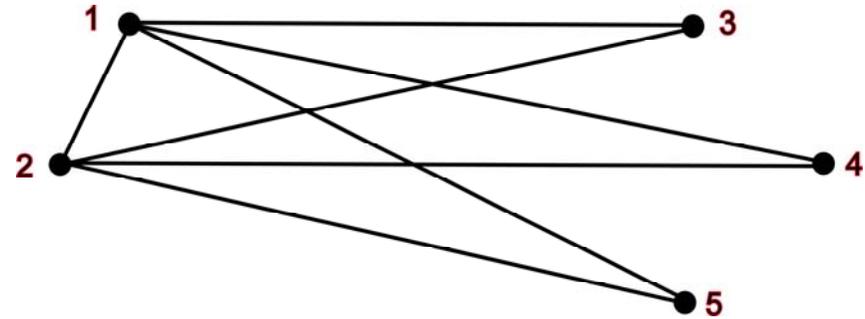
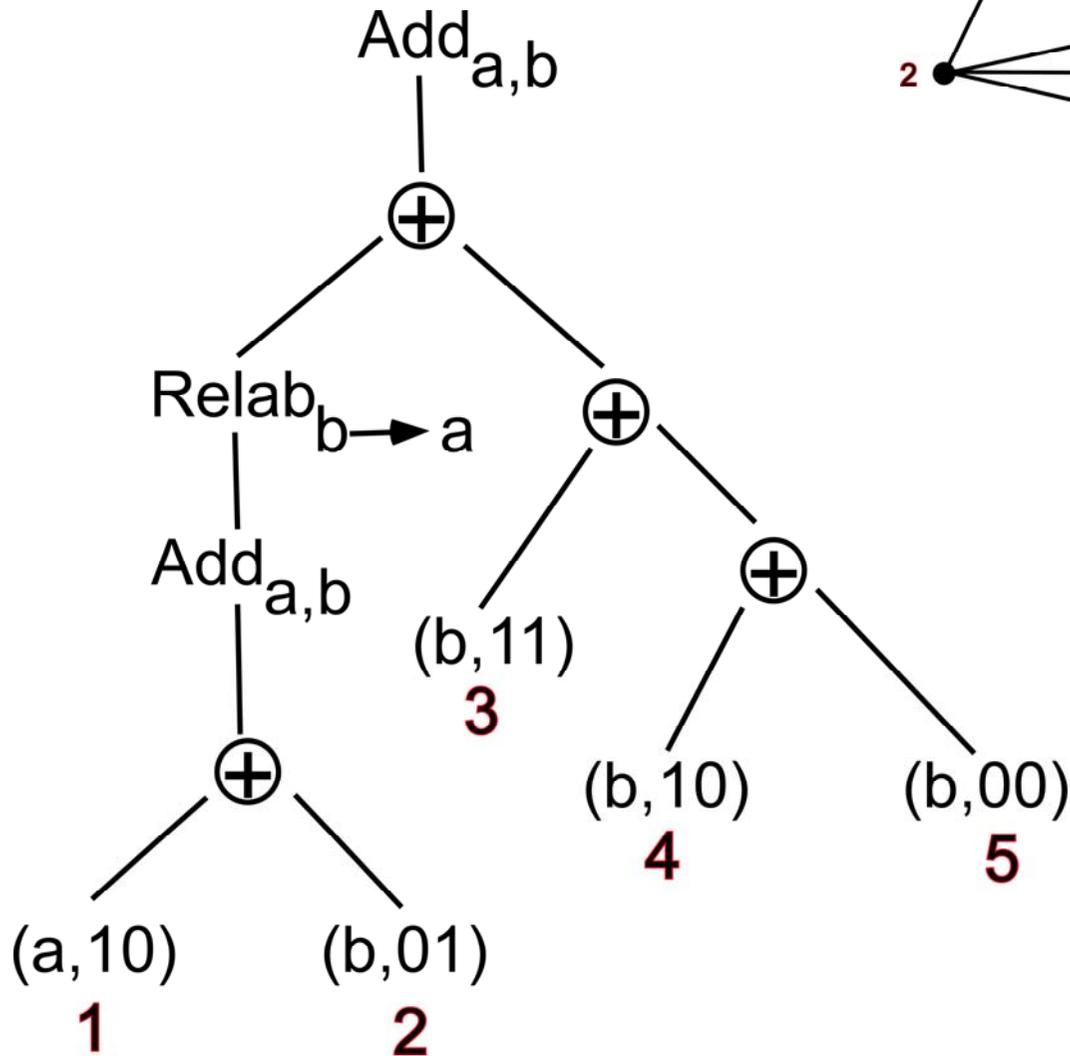
2) a term **s** in $\mathbf{T}(F^{(n)})$ encodes a term **t** in $\mathbf{T}(F)$ and an assignment of sets V_1, \dots, V_n to the set variables X_1, \dots, X_n :

if **u** is an occurrence of **(a, (w₁, ..., w_n))**, then

$w_i = 1$ if and only if **u** $\in V_i$.

3) **s** is denoted by **t*** (V_1, \dots, V_n)

Example (continued)



$$V_1 = \{1,3,4\}, V_2 = \{2,3\}$$

Term $t^*(V_1, V_2)$

By an induction on φ , we construct for each $\varphi(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ a finite (bottom-up) deterministic automaton $A(\varphi(X_1, \dots, X_n), k)$ that recognizes:

$$L(\varphi(X_1, \dots, X_n)) := \{ t^* (V_1, \dots, V_n) \in \mathbf{T}(F^{(n)}) \mid (G(t), V_1, \dots, V_n) \models \varphi \}$$

Theorem: For each sentence φ , the automaton $A(\varphi, k)$ accepts in time $f(\varphi, k) \cdot |t|$ the terms t in $\mathbf{T}(F)$ such that $G(t) \models \varphi$

It gives a *fixed-parameter linear* model-checking algorithm for input t , and a *fixed-parameter cubic* one if the graph has to be *parsed*. (The parameter is clique-width; the parsing algorithm is based on results by Oum, Seymour, Hlineny and myself; it uses *rank-width*, equivalent to clique-width for undirected graphs).

The inductive construction of $A(\varphi, k)$

Atomic formulas : discussed below.

For \wedge : product of two automata (deterministic **or not**)

For \vee : union of two automata (or product of two **complete** automata; product preserves determinism)

For **negation** : exchange accepting / non-accepting states
for a complete **deterministic** automaton

Quantifications: Formulas are written without \forall

$$L(\exists X_{n+1} \cdot \varphi(X_1, \dots, X_{n+1})) = \text{pr}(L (\varphi(X_1, \dots, X_{n+1})))$$

$$A(\exists X_{n+1} \cdot \varphi(X_1, \dots, X_{n+1}), k) = \text{pr}(A (\varphi(X_1, \dots, X_{n+1}), k))$$

where *pr* is the *projection* that eliminates the last Boolean;

→ a *non-deterministic* automaton.

Some tools for constructing automata

Substitutions and inverse images (*cylindrifications*).

1) If we know $A(\varphi(X_1, X_2), \mathbf{k})$, we get $A(\varphi(X_4, X_3), \mathbf{k})$ because :

$$L(\varphi(X_4, X_3)) = h^{-1}(L(\varphi(X_1, X_2))) \quad \text{where}$$

h maps $(\mathbf{a}, (w_1, w_2, w_3, w_4))$ to $(\mathbf{a}, (w_4, w_3))$. We take

$$A(\varphi(X_4, X_3), \mathbf{k}) = h^{-1}(A(\varphi(X_1, X_2)), \mathbf{k})$$

This construction preserves determinism and the number of states.

2) From $A(\varphi(X_1, X_2), \mathbf{k})$, we get $A(\varphi(X_3, \overbrace{X_1 \cup (X_2 \setminus X_4)}^{\text{Set term}})), \mathbf{k})$ by h^{-1}
 with h mapping $(\mathbf{a}, (w_1, w_2, w_3, w_4))$ to $(\mathbf{a}, (w_3, w_1 \vee (w_2 \wedge \neg w_4)))$

Relativization to subsets by inverse images.

If φ is a closed formula expressing a graph property P , its relativization $\varphi [X_1]$ to X_1 expresses that the subgraph induced on X_1 satisfies P . To construct it, we replace recursively

$$\exists y. \theta \quad \text{by} \quad \exists y. y \in X_1 \wedge \theta, \text{ etc...}$$

However, there is an easy transformation of automata :

Let h map $(\mathbf{a}, 0)$ to \emptyset and $(\mathbf{a}, 1)$ to \mathbf{a} .

$$L(\varphi [X_1]) = h^{-1} (L(\varphi))$$

Hence:

$$A(\varphi [X_1], \mathbf{k}) := h^{-1} (A(\varphi), \mathbf{k})$$

The inductive construction (continued) :

Complete *deterministic* automata for atomic formulas and basic graph properties : automaton over $F^{(n)}$ recognizing the set of terms

$$t^* (V_1, \dots, V_n) \text{ in } L(\varphi(X_1, \dots, X_n))$$

Intuition : in all cases, the *state* reached at node u represents a *finite information* $q(u)$ about the graph $G(t/u)$ and the restriction of V_1, \dots, V_n to the vertices below u (vertices = leaves)

1) if $u = f(v, w)$, we want that $q(u)$ is defined from $q(v)$ and $q(w)$ by a fixed function : \rightarrow the *transition function* ;

2) whether $(G(t), V_1, \dots, V_n)$ satisfies $\varphi(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ must be checkable from $q(\text{root})$: \rightarrow the *accepting states*.

Atomic and basic formulas :

$X_1 \subseteq X_2$, $X_1 = \emptyset$, $\text{Single}(X_1)$,

$\text{Card}_{p,q}(X_1)$: cardinality of X_1 is $= p \pmod{q}$,

$\text{Card}_{<q}(X_1)$: cardinality of X_1 is $< q$.

→ Easy constructions with small numbers of states :
respectively 2, 2, 3, q , $q+1$.

Example : for $X_1 \subseteq X_2$, the term must have no constant (**a**, 10).

Atomic formula : $\text{edg}(X_1, X_2)$ for directed edges

$\text{edg}(X_1, X_2)$ means : $X_1 = \{x\} \wedge X_2 = \{y\} \wedge x \longrightarrow y$

Vertex labels belong to a set C of k labels.

k^2+k+3 *states* : $0, Ok, a(1), a(2), ab, \text{Error}$, for a, b in $C, a \neq b$

Meaning of states (at node u in t ; its subterm t/u defines $G(t/u) \subseteq G(t)$).

0 : $X_1 = \emptyset, X_2 = \emptyset$

Ok *Accepting state* : $X_1 = \{v\}, X_2 = \{w\}, \text{edg}(v, w)$ in $G(t/u)$

$a(1)$: $X_1 = \{v\}, X_2 = \emptyset, v$ has label a in $G(t/u)$

$a(2)$: $X_1 = \emptyset, X_2 = \{w\}, w$ has label a in $G(t/u)$

ab : $X_1 = \{v\}, X_2 = \{w\}, v$ has label a, w has label b (hence $v \neq w$)
and $\neg \text{edg}(v, w)$ in $G(t/u)$

Error : all other cases

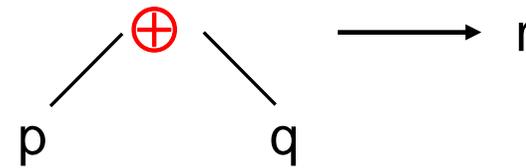
Transition rules

For the constants based on **a** :

(a,00) \rightarrow 0 ; **(a,10)** \rightarrow a(1) ; **(a,01)** \rightarrow a(2) ; **(a,11)** \rightarrow Error

For the binary operation \oplus :

(p,q,r are states)



If p = 0 then r := q

If q = 0 then r := p

If p = a(1), q = b(2) and a \neq b then r := ab

If p = b(2), q = a(1) and a \neq b then r := ab

Otherwise r := Error

For unary operations $\overrightarrow{Add}_{a,b}$

$\overrightarrow{Add}_{a,b} \longrightarrow r$
 $\quad \quad \quad \downarrow$
 $\quad \quad \quad p$

If $p = ab$ then $r := Ok$ else $r := p$

For unary operations $Relab_a \longrightarrow b$

If $p = a(i)$ where $i = 1$ or 2 then $r := b(i)$

If $p = ac$ where $c \neq a$ and $c \neq b$ then $r := bc$

If $p = ca$ where $c \neq a$ and $c \neq b$ then $r := cb$

If $p = Error$ or 0 or Ok or $c(i)$ or cd or dc where $c \neq a$
then $r := p$

4. Practical difficulties and (some) remedies.

Parsing :

Case of clique-width:

Checking if a graph has clique-width $\leq k$ is NP-complete (with k in the input ; Fellows *et al.*)

The *cubic approximate* parsing algorithm (by Oum *et al.*) based on *rank-width* is not (directly) implementable.

Remark: For certain classes of graphs of bounded *clique-width* defined by forbidden induced subgraphs, optimal clique-width terms can be constructed in polynomial time, by using in many cases, *modular decomposition*.

Case of tree-width: (bounded tree-width implies bounded clique-width)

Checking if a graph has tree-width $\leq k$ is NP-complete (with k in the input ; Arnborg *et al.*)

The *linear-time exact* parsing algorithm by Bodlaender (for tree-width) takes time $O(2^{32.k.k.k} \cdot n)$. There are usable algorithms for (non-random) graphs with 50 vertices and tree-width ≤ 35 (Bodlaender & Koster).

Specific algorithms: Flow-graphs of structured programs have *tree-width* at most 6 and tree-decompositions are easy to get from the parse trees of programs (Thorup).

Sizes of automata :

The number of states of $A(\varphi, k)$ is bounded by an h -iterated exponential where h is the number of quantifier alternations of φ .

There is no alternative construction giving a fixed bound on nestings of exponentiations (Meyer & Stockmeyer, Weyer, Frick & Grohe).

The construction by induction on the structure of φ may need intermediate automata of huge size, even if the *unique minimal deterministic* automaton equivalent to $A(\varphi, k)$ has a manageable number of states.

Soguet *et al.* using MONA have constructed automata for the following cases ; no success for clique-width 4 :

	<i>Clique-width 2</i>	<i>Clique-width 3</i>
MaxDegree \leq 3	91 states	Space-Out
Connected	11 states	Space-Out
IsConnComp(X)	48 states	Space-Out
Has \leq 4-VertCov	111 states	1037 states
HasClique \geq 4	21 states	153 states
2-colorable	11 states	57 states

One can avoid the inductive construction and construct “directly” deterministic automata for basic properties : NoEdge, Connected, NoCycle

Property	Partition (X_1, \dots, X_p)	edg(X,Y)	NoEdge	Connected, NoCycle for degree $\leq p$	Path(X,Y)	Connected, Nocycle
Number of states $N(k)$	2	k^2+k+3	2^k	$2^{O(p.k.k)}$	$2^{O(k.k)}$	$2^{2^{O(k)}}$

Examples of automata too large to be constructed, i.e., “compiled”:

for $k = 2$: 4-colorability, 3-acyclic-colorability, NoCycle (i.e., is a forest)

for $k = 4$: connectedness, for $k = 5$: 3-colorability, clique.

The *minimal deterministic* automaton for Conn(X) has more than $2^{2^{k/2}}$ states.

An issue : *Fly-automata*

States and transitions are not listed in huge tables :
they are *specified* (in uniform ways for all k) by “small” programs.
Can be nondeterministic.

Closure properties:

Union (for \vee)

Product (for \wedge)

Image (for \exists)

Inverse image (for substitutions and relativization)

Determinization.

Example of a state for connectedness :

$$q = \{ \{a\}, \{a,b\}, \{b,c,d\}, \{b,d,f\} \},$$

a,b,c,d,f are vertex labels; q is the set of *types* of the connected components of the current graph. ($\text{type}(H)$ = set of labels of its vertices)

Some transitions :

$$\text{Add}_{a,c} : q \longrightarrow \{ \{a,b,c,d\}, \{b,d,f\} \},$$

$$\text{Relab}_{a \rightarrow b} : q \longrightarrow \{ \{b\}, \{b,c,d\}, \{b,d,f\} \}$$

Transitions for \oplus : union of sets of types.

Using fly automata works for formulas with no quantifier alternation that use “new” atomic formulas for “basic” properties

Examples : p-acyclic colorability

$$\exists X_1, \dots, X_p \text{ (Partition}(X_1, \dots, X_p) \wedge \text{NoEdge}(X_1) \wedge \dots \wedge \text{NoEdge}(X_p) \wedge \dots \\ \dots \wedge \text{NoCycle}(X_i \cup X_j) \wedge \dots)$$

(all $i < j$; set terms $X_i \cup X_j$ avoid some quantifications).

Minor inclusion : H simple, loop-free. $\text{Vertices}(H) = \{v_1, \dots, v_p\}$

$$\exists X_1, \dots, X_p \text{ (Disjoint}(X_1, \dots, X_p) \wedge \text{Conn}(X_1) \wedge \dots \wedge \text{Conn}(X_p) \wedge \dots \\ \dots \wedge \text{Link}(X_i, X_j) \wedge \dots)$$

Existence of “holes” : odd induced cycles (to check *perfectness* ; one checks “anti-holes” on the edge-complement of the given graph).

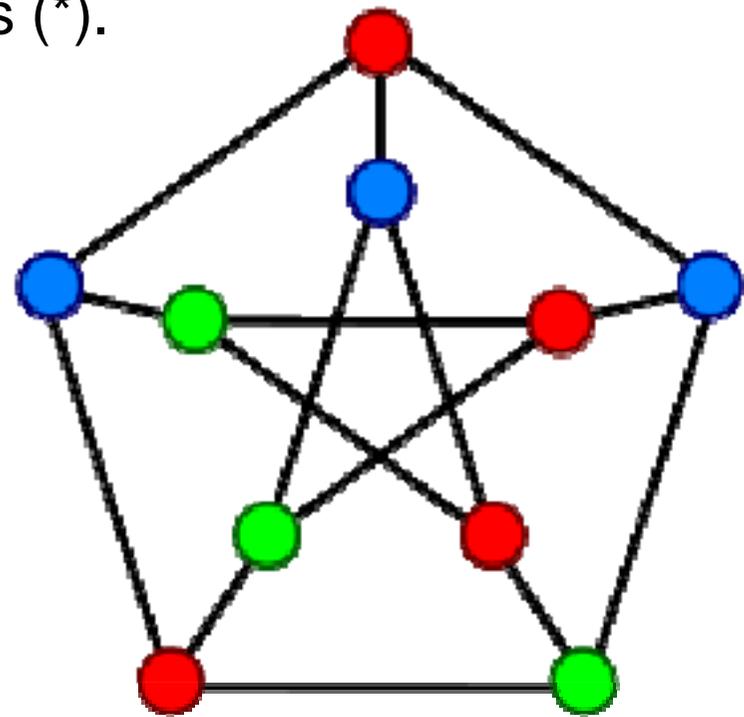
Some experiments, by Irène Durand.

3-colorability of the 6 x 7 grid (of clique-width 8) in 7 minutes,
of the 6 x 33 grid (of clique-width 8) in 90 minutes.

3-colorability of the Petersen graph (clique-width 7) in 1.5 second,
its 4-acyclic-colorability in 4 minutes (*).

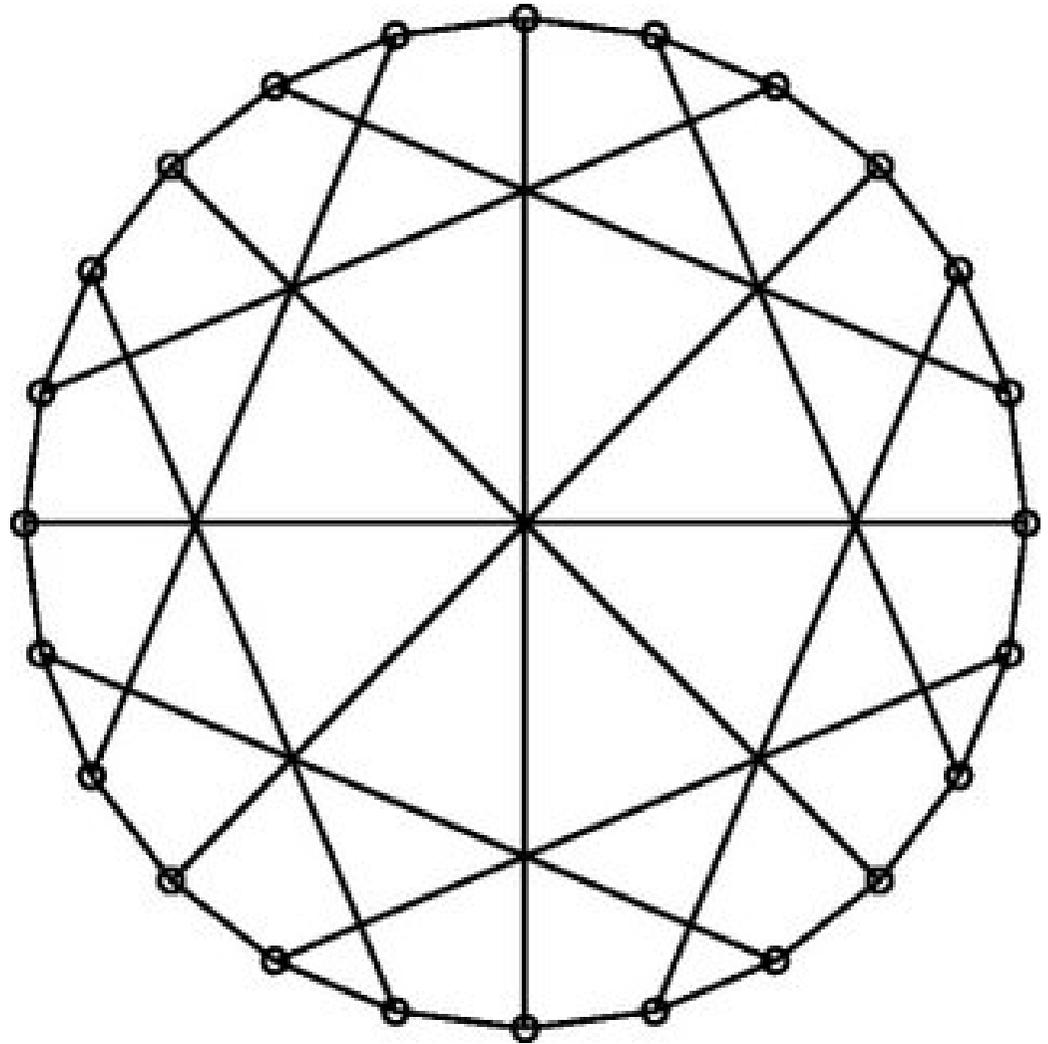
(3-colorable but not acyclically;
red and **green** vertices
induce a cycle).

(*) For a term with *annotations*.



The McGee graph

24 vertices,
36 edges,
clique-width ≤ 10 .



3-colorability in 7 minutes,
3-AC-colorability in 12 hours.

Annotations : an additional tool

At some positions in the given term, we attached some (finite) contextual information.

Example :

At position u in t , we attach the set

$\text{ADD}_t(u)$ = the set of pairs (a,b) such that some operation

$\text{Add}_{c,d}$ *above* u (hence, in its “context”) adds edges between the (eventual) vertices *below* u labelled by a and b .

The sets $\text{ADD}_t(u)$ can be computed in *linear time* by means of a top-down traversal of t .

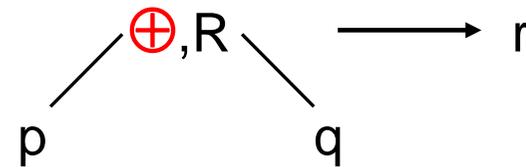
Motivation: Certain automata on **annotated terms** may have less states.

Example: $edg(X_1, X_2) : 2k+3$ states instead of $k^2 + k + 3$ (cf. page 34):

0, Ok, **a**(1), **a**(2), Error, for **a** in C.

Transitions for \oplus annotated by R :

(p, q, r are states)



if $p = 0$ then $r := q$; if $q = 0$ then $r := p$;

if $p = \mathbf{a}(1)$, $q = \mathbf{b}(2)$ and $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \in R \wedge$ then $r := \text{Ok}$;

and if $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \notin R \wedge$ then $r := \text{Error}$;

if $p = \mathbf{b}(2)$, $q = \mathbf{a}(1)$: *idem* ;

otherwise $r := \text{Error}$.

Other examples :

For *Clique*(X) meaning that X induces a clique :

$2^k + 2$ states instead of $2^{O(k.k)}$.

For *Connectedness* : same states but they “shrink” quicker :

cf. the rules for *Add*_{a,c} on page 43

Has been tested successfully

5. Edge set quantifications and tree-width

Incidence graph of G undirected, $\mathbf{Inc}(G) = (V_G \cup E_G, \mathbf{inc}_G(\dots))$

$\mathbf{inc}_G(v,e) \iff v$ is a vertex of edge e .

Monadic second-order formulas written with \mathbf{inc} can use **quantifications on sets of edges** :

they define **\mathbf{MSO}_2 -expressible graph properties**.

The existence of a perfect matching or a Hamiltonian circuit is **\mathbf{MSO}_2 -expressible** but **not** MSO-expressible.

Exercises

- 1) Write an MSO_2 -sentence expressing that a graph has a Hamiltonian cycle.
- 2) Write an MSO_2 -sentence expressing that a graph has a spanning tree of degree ≤ 3 . (This property is not MSO -expressible).

MSO₂ model-checking

- For an FPT algorithm, the parameter is tree-width and **cannot be clique-width**. By Kreutzer, Makowsky *et al.* MSO₂ model-checking **needs** restriction to bounded tree-width unless P=NP, ETH, Exptime=NExptime.

- MSO₂-model-checking **reduces to MSO-model-checking**:

Given G (can have mult. edges) we build a tree-decomposition of G , then a tree-decomposition of its $\text{Inc}(G)$ of same width k (easy), then a “clique-width” term for $\text{Inc}(G)$ of width $\leq 2^{O(k)}$
(exponential blow-up, not avoidable).

An MSO₂ property is MSO on $\text{Inc}(G)$: hence, we can apply the previous algorithm.

Problem: the exponential clique-width of $\text{Inc}(G)$

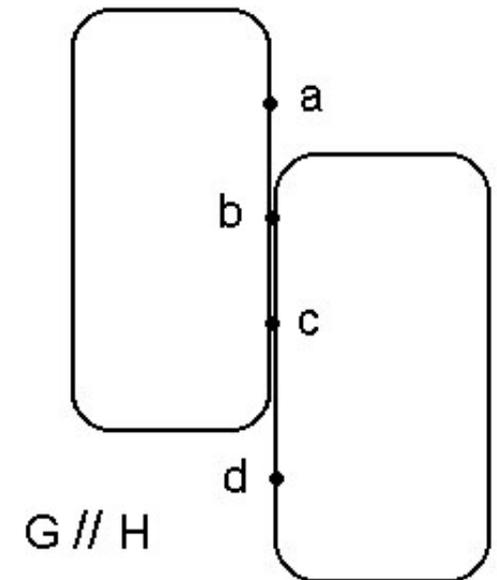
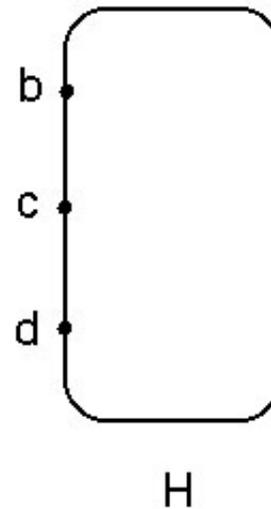
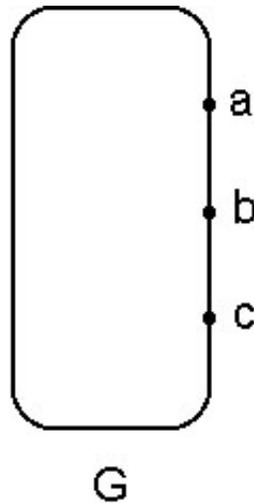
Graph operations that characterize **tree-width**

Graphs have distinguished vertices called **sources**, (or **terminals** or **boundary vertices**) pointed to by **source labels** from a finite set : $\{a, b, c, \dots, d\}$.

Binary operation(s) : Parallel composition

$G // H$ is the disjoint union of G and H and sources with same label are **fused**.

(If G and H are not disjoint, we use a copy of H disjoint from G).



Unary operations :

Forget a source label

Forget_a(G) is G without *a*-source: the source is no longer distinguished
(it is made "internal").

Source renaming :

Ren_{a ↔ b}(G) exchanges source labels *a* and *b*

(replaces *a* by *b* if *b* is not the label of any source)

Nullary operations denote *basic graphs* : 1-edge graphs, isolated vertices.

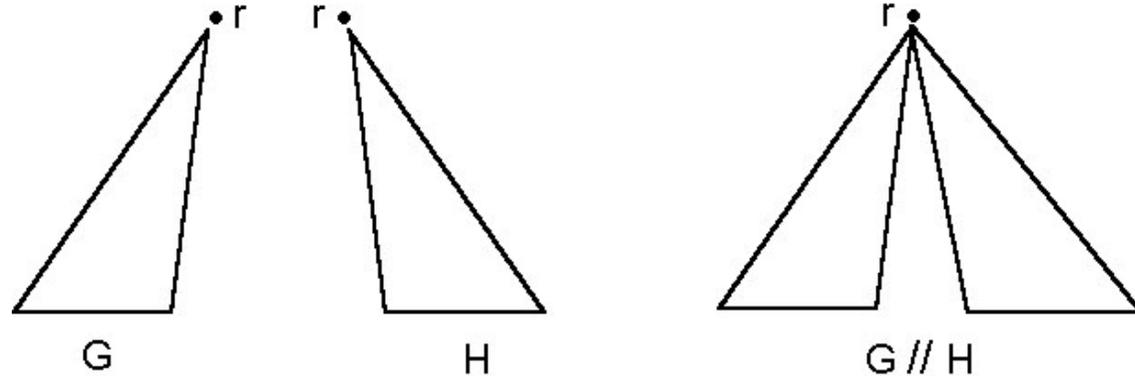
Terms over these operations *define* (or *denote*) graphs (with or without sources). They can have parallel edges.

Example : Trees

Constructed with two source labels, r (root) and n (new root).

Fusion of two trees

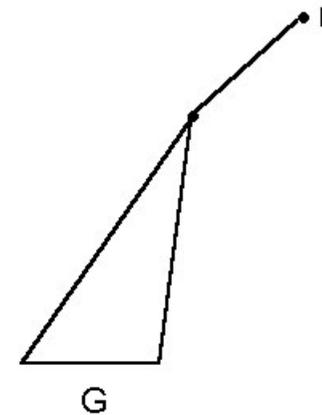
at their roots :



Extension of a tree by parallel composition with a new edge, forgetting the old root, making the "new root" as current root :

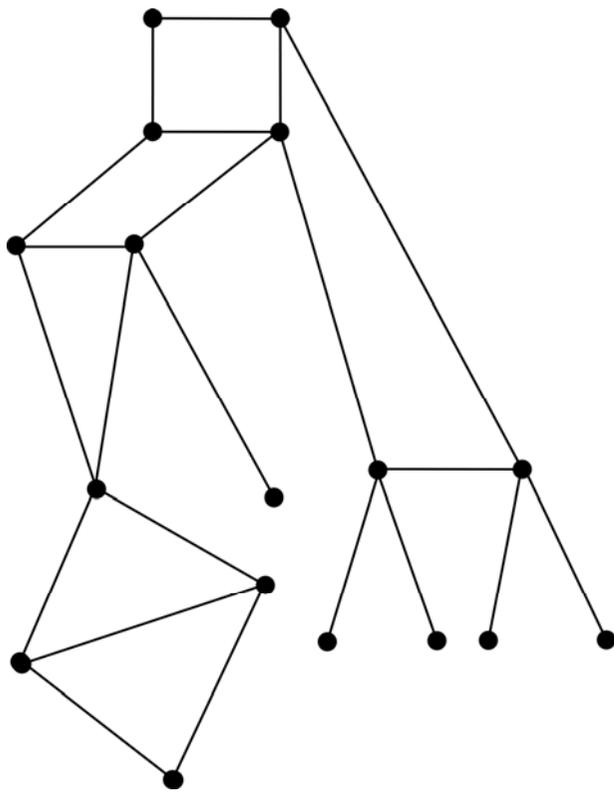
$$e = r \bullet \text{---} \bullet n$$

$$\text{Ren}_n \longleftrightarrow r (\text{Forget}_r (G // e))$$

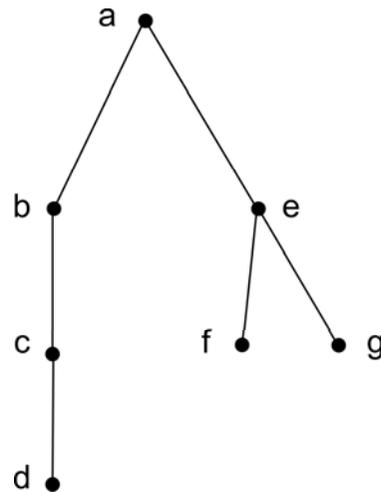


Trees are defined by : $T = T // T \cup \text{extension}(T) \cup r$

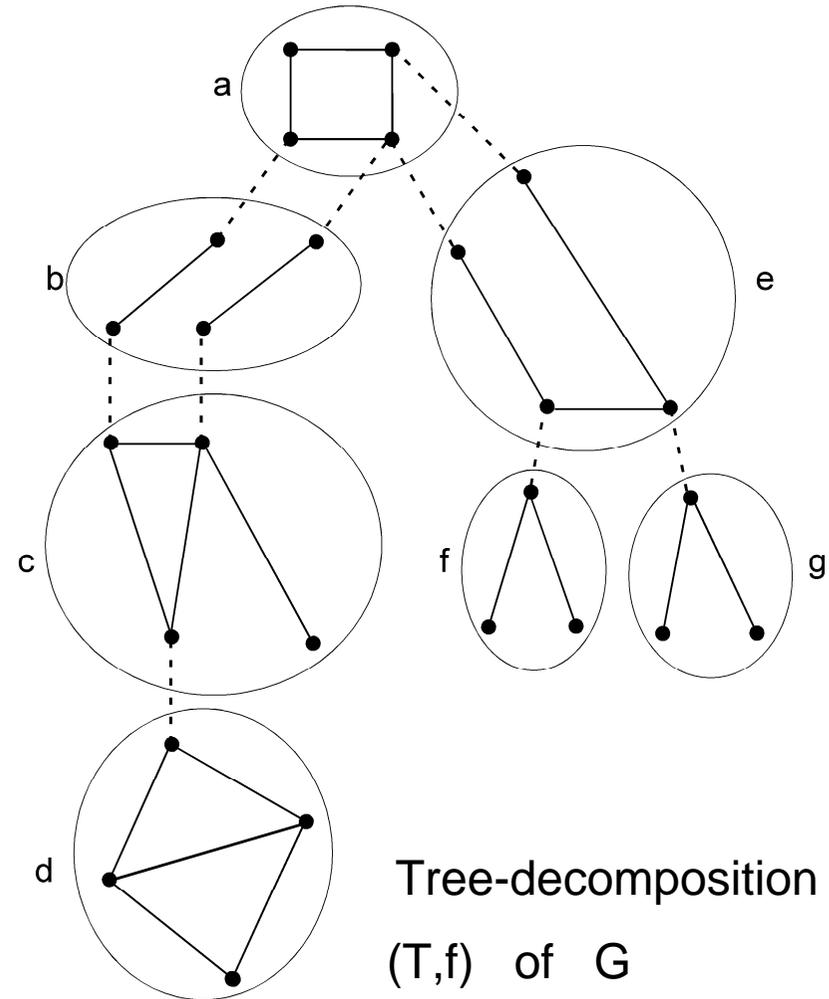
Relation to tree-decompositions and tree-width



Graph G



Tree T



Tree-decomposition
(T,f) of G

Dotted lines - - - link *copies* of a same vertex.

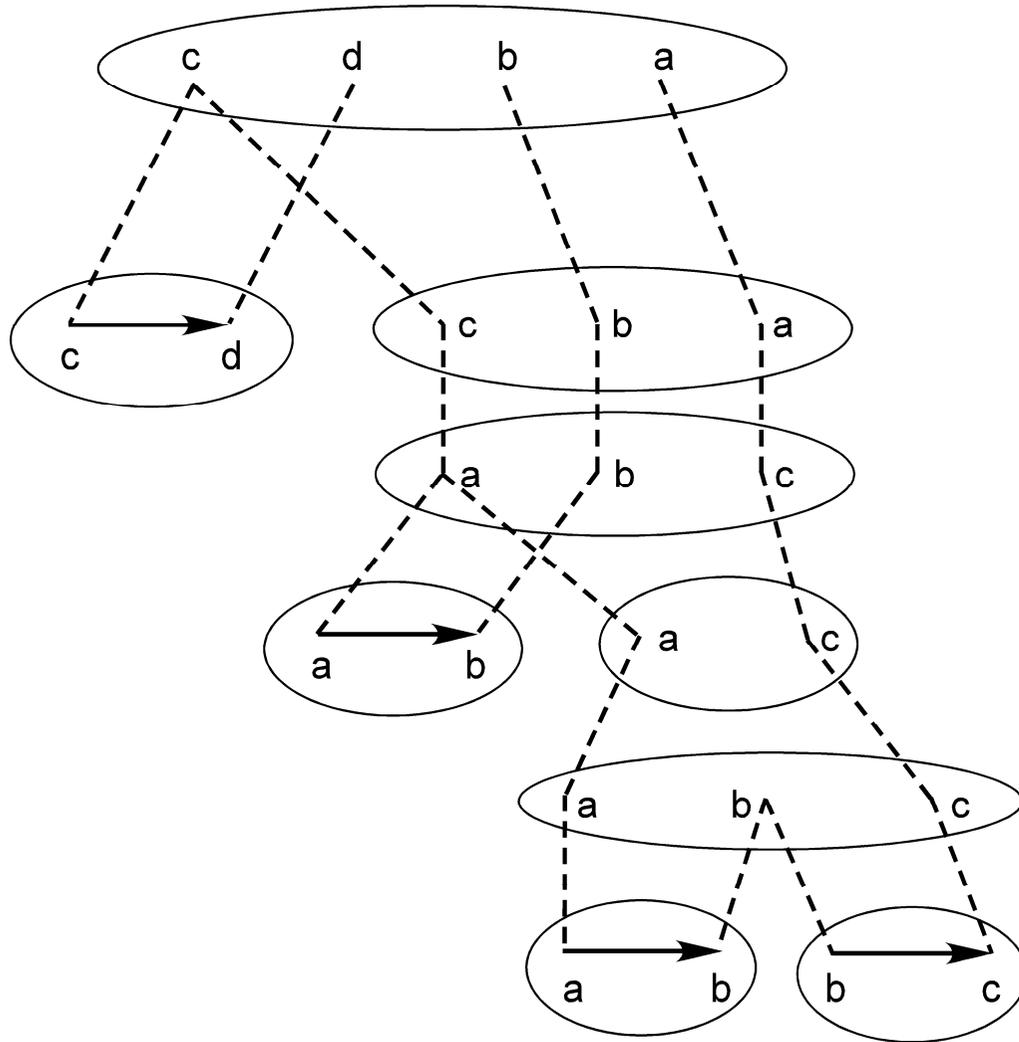
Width = max. size of a box -1. **Tree-width** = min. width of a tree-dec.

Proposition: A graph has **tree-width** $\leq k$ \Leftrightarrow it can be constructed from edges by using the operations **//**, **Ren** $a \leftrightarrow b$ and **Forget** a with $\leq k+1$ labels a, b, \dots

Proposition : Bounded tree-width implies bounded clique-width
($\text{cwd}(G) \leq 2^{2\text{tw}(G)+1}$ for G directed), but **not conversely**.

From an algebraic expression to a tree-decomposition

Example : $cd // Ren_{a \leftrightarrow c} (ab // Forget_b(ab // bc))$ (ab denotes an edge from a to b)



The tree-decomposition associated with this term.

Automata for the model-checking of MSO_2 formulas

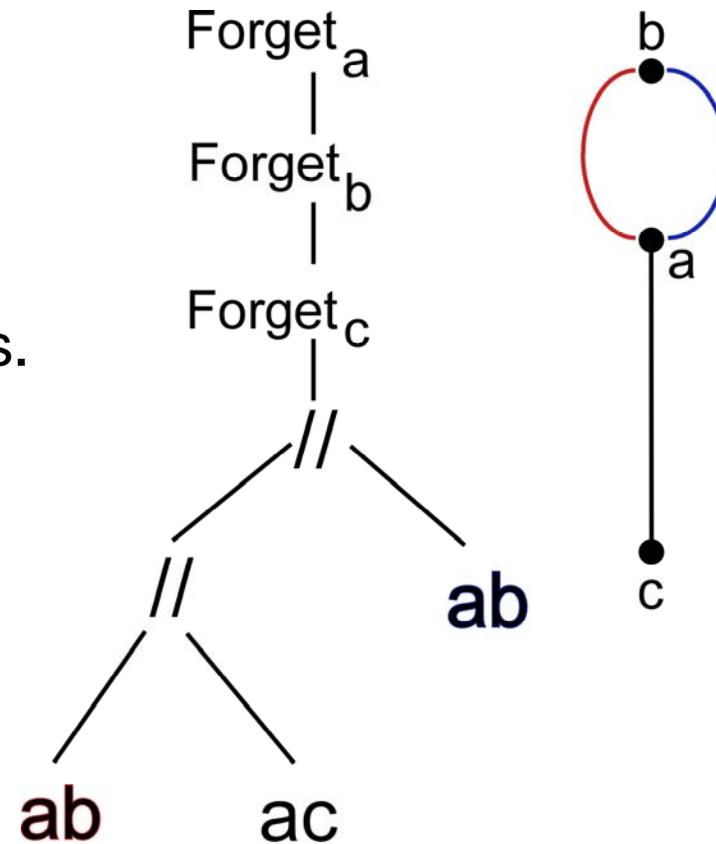
To extend the method used for bounded clique-width, we need a representation of vertices *and edges* by occurrences of operations and constants in the terms representing tree-decompositions.

Undirected graphs of tree-width $\leq k-1$ are denoted by terms over the operations : *//*, *Forget_a* and the constants *a*, *ab* for $a, b \in [k]=\{1, \dots, k\}$, *without renamings of labels*.

First method

Vertices are represented at the occurrences of *Forget* operations.

The edges are at the leaves of the tree, *below* the nodes representing their ends.



The automaton for $edg(X, Y)$

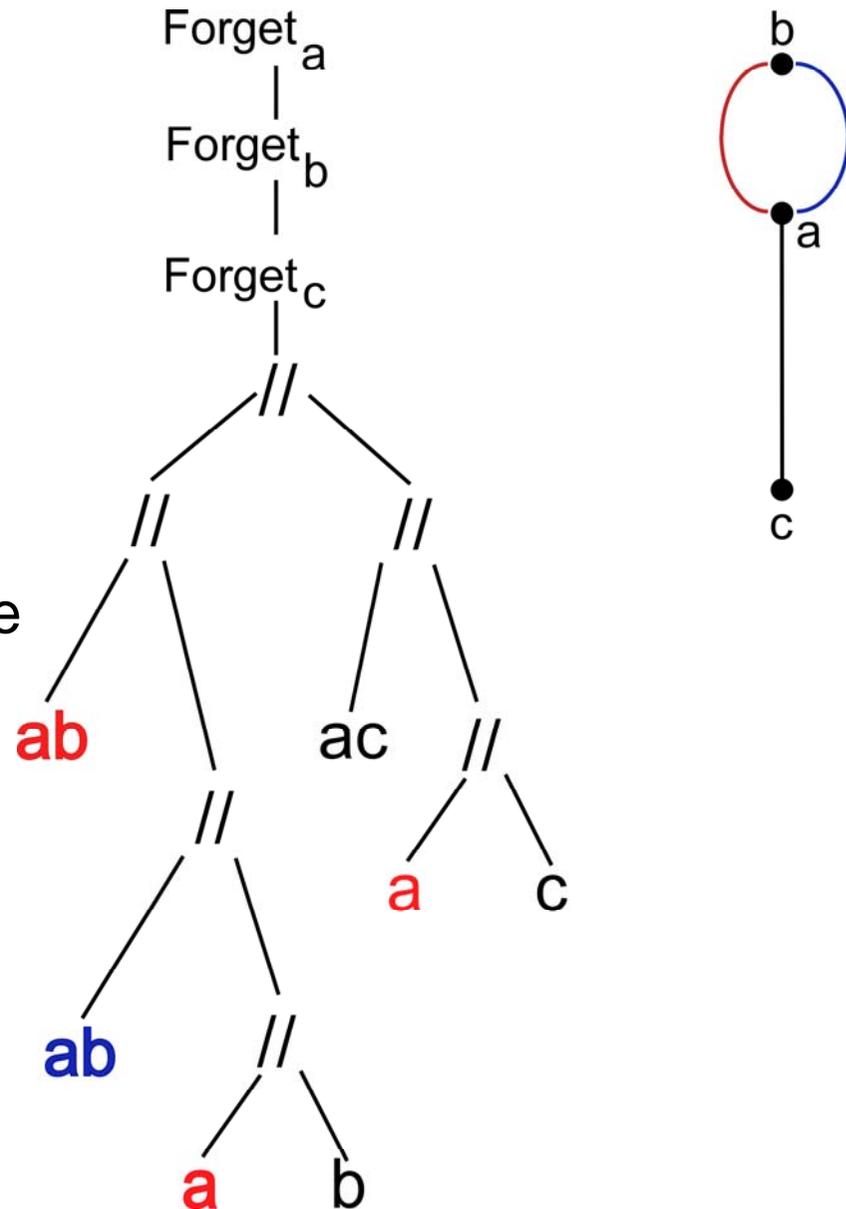
has $2^{\Theta(k \cdot k)}$ states (compare with $O(k^2)$), cf. page 34

Second method

Vertices are represented at the leaves, the edges are at nodes *close to* those representing their ends.

Because of // which fuses some vertices, each vertex is represented by several leaves.

On the figure, vertex a is represented by two leaves.



Equality of vertices is an equivalence relation \simeq on leaves.

Hence: there exists a set of vertices X such that ...

is expressed by:

there exists a set of leaves X , saturated for \simeq such that ...

Same exponential blow up as with the first possibility.

Note: The responsible is //.

Improving the first method by annotations

Recall: the vertices are in bijection with the occurrences of the *Forget* operations.

The annotation: at each occurrence u of $Forget_a$ representing a vertex x is attached the set of labels b such that the first occurrence of $Forget_b$ above u represents a vertex adjacent to x .

The automaton for $edg(X,Y)$ has $2^{2k} + 2$ states (instead of $2^{\Theta(k.k)}$).

The automaton for $in(X,Y)$ has $k(k-1)/2 + 3$ states.

Incidence and adjacency are handled separately on “redundant” representations of graphs by terms (edg by using the annotation).

Conclusion

1. Using automata for model-checking of MS sentences on graphs of bounded tree-width or clique-width is **not hopeless** if we use **fly-automata**, built from (possibly non-deterministic) “small” automata for **basic graph properties** (and their negations), and for sentences **without quantifier alternation**.

2. More tests on significant examples are necessary, and also comparison (theory and practice) with **other approaches** : games, monadic Datalog, specific problems, “Boolean width”.

3. One can adapt fly-automata to **counting and optimization problems** ? However, this extension should be tested.